

PEACE NEWS

For War-Resistance and World-Community

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April 2nd, 1948

THREE PENCE

Western Europe as a new Buffer State

WHEN Mr. Pickwick's legal advisers heard of the sharp-practice of their opponents, Messrs. Dodson and Fogg, they fell into "a trance of admiration," and "pondered for a few seconds with animated countenances, as if they were reflecting on one of the most beautiful and ingenious discoveries that the intellect of man had ever made." Such, one feels, must have been the reaction of the Soviet rulers to the Anglo-French-American demarche over Trieste.

To the connoisseur of power-politics it was masterly; the Russian walk-over in Berlin was melodramatic and clumsy by comparison. In the race for advantage between the West and the East, the West is now leading by a length.

I wish I could have seen the headlines in the Rome Daily American the morning after the announcement. Already last autumn, when I was reading it regularly, it was hard to tell which was the political and which the sporting page. Big Three politics were reported like a prize-fight, a ding-dong contest between the two heavy-weights, America and Russia, with Britain, an unhappy referee, dodging this way and that out of arms-length and ejaculating, "Foul! Foul!" without much appreciable effect. BIG GEORGE WEIGHS IN: RUSSIA'S MOLOTOV HITS THE ROPES.

War-mongering

I AM glad to see that neutral Sweden has taken the initiative in implementing last November's UN resolution on war-mongering. Mr. Osten Unden, the Foreign Minister, has written to all Swedish associations of publishers, editors and journalists, and to the radio corporations and press bureaux of political parties, drawing their attention to this resolution, which condemns "all propaganda likely to provoke or encourage a threat to peace."

But no form of propaganda is so insidious as this personification of the Powers. Because it makes politics palatable to morons, it is irresistible to newspaper magnates. It sells. The struggle for political supremacy is invested with the glamour of a match between champions, which can only be ended by a knock-out blow. And unless we wake up to the reality betimes, the knock-out blow will be delivered. But what can be done at this stage to break the vicious circle of diplomatic coup and counter-coup?

Man to man

DURING the last couple of weeks, there have been several calls for a Big Three meeting. Mr. Seymour Cocks has proposed that Mr. Attlee, Lord Mountbatten and General Smuts should pay Stalin a personal call. General Smuts himself has declared that the Great Powers should "speak to one another as man to man."

Such a meeting could do no harm; but neither would it do much good. "No-one knows what Russia's position is," said General Smuts. But the General, as Trotsky once remarked, "badly needs a dose of Marxism." If he does not know what Russia's position is, it is not for want of plain speaking by the Russians. The Politbureau wants a Communist Europe—ultimately a Communist world. If Stalin said as much in a personal meeting, it might help to enlighten the General, but would hardly make for a settlement. If he said something else instead, we should be back where we are already.

No, something very much more radical than a meeting of the Big

Three will be required; something more radical even than Mrs. Leah Manning's cavalcade of housewives through Eastern Europe: something more like unilateral disarmament.

Buffer-states

But that is a long way off. Perhaps the best that can be looked for at the moment is the formation of a few "buffer states," with a vested interest in averting collision between the East and the West.

Such a State Western Europe might be: and since the very possibility of its formation depends on the allegiance of Italy, one can under-

COMMENTARY

by

BRUCE ODSPUR

stand the temptation on France and Britain to proffer the Trieste bribe. Beautiful and ingenious as that move may have seemed, however, it was short-sighted in the extreme: for not only is any appeal to chauvinism prejudicial to union itself; but, by associating themselves with the American demarche, France and Britain have identified Western Europe in advance with one of the two great belligerents. Mr. Bevin's pretence, in the Commons last week, that it had nothing to do

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

U.S. CONSCRIPTION OPPONENTS LABELLED "COMMUNISTS"

From Frances Rose Ransom.

New York, March 25.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S address to Congress of last week did not reveal a single new fact in regard to the international situation, beyond what was already publicly known, to justify his sudden new demand for increased armaments and conscription on an emergency basis.

Opinion in Washington is very much divided as to whether the crisis is genuine or synthetic. There is certainly a great deal of emotion over recent events in Czechoslovakia. Yet it is hard to understand why there should be so much more concern over that country than Rumania, for example. The Prague coup should not have been such a complete surprise as many people seem to consider it, since it was foreshadowed by a series of episodes of which it was the end-product. The doom of Czechoslovakia was announced when that country was forced to retract its offer to participate in the Marshall Plan.

A MANŒUVRE

There are a number of factors to support the theory that the intensification of the sense of crisis is primarily a domestic political manœuvre. On the simplest level, it has always been a useful device for pushing through a piece of controversial legislation at the crucial moment, which in this case would be the Marshall Plan. It was also a wonderful opportunity for Truman to plead for conscription again.

The theory that the crisis may be manufactured for purposes of politics

doesn't carry too much consolation. The trouble is that emotions resulting from manipulation take the same course as emotions built up by logical reasoning. Whatever his motives, President Truman has set up an atmosphere which in itself can contribute to the eventuality of war. The general mood is of a pre-war period, greeted variously with resignation, enthusiasm, apathy, or antagonism, but discussed as such from all sides.

One indication to the contrary was pointed out by a radio commentator a few days ago: the sensitive index of shipping insurance has not shown the increase of rates which occur when war threatens.

The demands for conscription, in the form of Selective Service to fill up the army, or universal military training for youth, or both, are now being considered by the Senate Armed Service Committee. Opposition groups in large numbers have asked to be heard by that committee, and the hearings will last several weeks.

Former Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts, Chairman of the pro-conscription National Security Committee, told the Senate Committee that the opposition is almost entirely Communist. The National Council Against Conscription, which has refrained from any co-operation with Communist groups, replied in a statement to the Press that it is the large church, farm, labour and education groups which have been the bulk of the opposition from the beginning, and censured Roberts for his unfair accusation.

While politicians talk of a Third World War, volunteers must still aid

GERMANY'S SUFFERING MILLIONS

After living for a week on the equivalent of German rations, several parishioners of St. Simon and St. Jude Church, Great Lever, Bolton, lost up to 2½-lbs in weight. As a result of their efforts, however, they have been able to send several parcels of food to Germany.

AFTER a three-week's tour of Germany and Austria, Peggy Duff, of Save Europe Now has reported on the appalling conditions in which millions of refugees still exist. This is the biggest social problem in Germany and Austria today, she says, one which seems almost insuperable.

"It is most acute in Schleswig-Holstein and Niedersachsen where the majority of the refugees were settled. In the former the population has almost been doubled and there are 2½ million refugees.

"The refugees are living, at best, in a room in someone else's house with no prospect for guest or host of a change for years to come; at worse, in schoolrooms and church halls, huts and stables and barracks, 15 to 20 families to a room, sometimes with bunks, sometimes only with straw boxed in to make a bed, sometimes, though not often with a nondescript curtain to give a little privacy. Many have been living like this for two years now and there is no hope of a change for the better, though they may be herded out of one of these lagers and into another similar one some miles away.

WHEN THE GATES CLOSE

"Uelzen, is the only transit camp for these refugees in Niedersachsen. It can take 2,000 who are supposed to stay only a few days but usually stop two or three weeks. When the 2,000 limit is reached the gates are closed and the weary families plodding down the road from the station turn back again to wander further on.

"As the refugees come into this camp they are deloused. This is a necessary sanitary precaution but you

will understand how close these human beings have come to cattle when you hear that after they are sprayed with DDT their wrists are stamped with a rubber stamp 'ent-laused.'

"The camp consists of army huts placed on a disused sports ground. The huts, which were bitterly cold when I was there, are warmed by one small stove, and along each side boards have been placed to make divisions between which lies the straw on which the refugees sleep. The relief worker with me was delighted because the straw was cleaner than she had ever seen it before, but it certainly wasn't what I should call clean. The lavatories were filthy holes in the ground.

TWO OLD LADIES

"In the worst of the huts was an old lady of over 80. Turned out of East Prussia she had come through the long trek to spend more than a year in a camp in Denmark. Then once more she set off again to come with 600 others to this hell of Uelzen.

"There was another old lady with some form of kidney trouble, who stood there in the bitter cold, a blanket wrapped around her legs, tears running down her cheeks, saying over and over again in German 'I can't hold my water. I can't hold my water.' The first old lady's son led the two of them out of the hut after us, through the snow, to the camp hospital where the doctor told us it is rarely possible to disinfect the beds, because they are filled again as fast as they are emptied.

"Three British Red Cross workers went into this camp two days after my visit and it is some consolation to know that some of the food and clothing we send should now find its way there.

"I have been told many times that the Germans themselves care little about the plight of the refugees. It is difficult to understand what one

should expect them to do in this situation which appears to have no solution and in which for everyone the daily process of living is so complex and difficult.

"I was tremendously impressed by some of the work being done by workers in the Social Ministries of the Laendar, in the German voluntary organisations, and in our own British Relief teams. But for every youth they save, a dozen more stream into the bunkers. They need more and more help, equipment, house room, food and clothing if the problem is to be tackled radically. I am hoping it may be possible for Save Europe Now to encourage rescue schemes on a much bigger scale.

"The majority of the children you see in the streets or in the school look, at a casual glance, normal, yet the British and German relief societies which run homes for specially under-nourished children could fill them many times over—and all these children are medically examined and are dangerously under-weight.

IN A SCHOOL

"I went into a school on the outskirts of Dortmund. We picked it at random because it was close to the kitchens where the Swedish school meals were being cooked, which I had just visited. Once again at a casual glance the children do not look particularly thin or under-nourished, except for one or two special cases.

"Yet when you ask them their ages the majority are, you find, anything from one to three years older than you expect. And this was in Dortmund, alleged to be well off because the miners get extra food. One of the recommendations put forward by the British Churchwomen's Delegation is that school meals should be extended to all children at the earliest possible moment. It is certainly true that the half litre of soup these children receive is saving lives daily."

PEACE NEWS

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BERDYAEV

A VERY great man died last week. His death did not attract much attention in the Press; neither, for that matter, did his life. Yet to few Europeans of our time could the now hackneyed epithet "prophetic" be more justly applied than to Nicolas Berdyaev.

He called himself a "personalist" writer: but of personal details in the ordinary sense his books are practically devoid. We learn that he liked dogs and disliked photographs, that is about all. He called himself an "existential" thinker—which means simply that his philosophy was devoted to the elucidation of problems posed by his own life—and his life was not uneventful. Banished by the Tsarist authorities for revolutionary activities, he was appointed Professor of Philosophy at Moscow by Lenin, only to be twice imprisoned for counter-revolutionary activities, and finally banished once more. Yet of all these outward events there is little or no record in his books.

It was the inward and spiritual significance of events that pre-occupied him exclusively. "The Meaning of History" is the title of one of his books; and the clue to the meaning he sought in his own experience. He found it in what he called "the dialectic of freedom."

Man aspires to self-realisation; he rebels against the outward and visible order that frustrates him, whether it be represented by State, Church or Ideology. But, as Dostoevsky proclaimed, "man cannot live in rebellion." Self-assertion is ultimately self-stultifying, and brings with it a new slavery of man, to his own arbitrary will. From this slavery there was no deliverance, save in the discovery of a new Authority, whose "service is perfect freedom"—because the man who obeys its laws, obeys the law of his own highest nature.

For Berdyaev, the standard of revolt had been Marxism; and he believed that the acceptance of Marxism by the Russian people was conditioned by a similar movement of the spirit. As against the old order, the Revolution was justified therefore: it was "a dialectical moment in the destiny of the Russian people." But long before Stalin appeared on the scene, he predicted that it would lead to a new slavery.

Still, there could be no going back, and all attempts to overthrow the Communist regime by force would fail. The Revolution could not be reversed; it could only be surpassed, by the Russians themselves going forward to the discovery of a new and higher freedom. He believed that only a Christianity which accepted and made its own all that was true in the revolutionary criticism of the old order could either have forestalled the Revolution, or, now that it was too late to forestall it, redeem it from self-stultification.

In some such spirit the true pacifist approaches the catastrophe of war. He accepts it as a judgment on his failure to create the conditions of peace, and continues to bear witness to those principles which alone can redeem whatever order emerges at the end. Berdyaev rejected the name of pacifist; but Max Plowman called his *War and the Christian Conscience* (a Pax pamphlet) the best statement ever made of the pacifist position.

Feature Letter from
LAURENCE HOUSMAN

THE WAR TO END WAR

I HAVE read Mr. Middleton Murry's book with all the friendly respect which I feel to be his due, both for the obvious sincerity with which he states his reasons for renouncing pacifism, and for the great ability with which he propounds his solution for the problem of how to secure world peace by a supra-national "Atomic Authority."

That Authority is to be brought into being by war, or threat of war, against any power which refuses to accept it; and he names Russia, under her present rulers, as the only Power which is in the least likely to do so. And this War for the Abolition of War, directed against a Power which will not accept Abolition, he declares in effect to be no war, because, by that means only, can world peace be secured.

Last appearance

In this war, presumably the atom bomb is to make its last appearance; and he seems to think that, if we are quick enough, it will only make a one-sided appearance; since Russia (in spite of her recent boast to the contrary), does not yet possess it. But suppose he is wrong—suppose she really does; and suppose that against this War that is no War (being for the abolition of war), Russia decides to wage a real war, to prevent abolition, and wins—what is going to be the result then?

Paradoxically, the result will be ostensibly much the same, but disastrously different: for abolition of war under the victorious dictatorship of Russia, will, according to Mr. Murry, only put an end to external war of nation against nation, and substitute a perpetual internal war of totalitarian Government against enslaved humanity; and if this short and sharp remedy for Soviet Russia's protracted recalcitrance is, after all, only a toss up and a gamble as to which will win, is it worth venturing on?

But what are the chances that, in

the countries which belong to what Mr. Murry calls *The Free Society*, the Governments would ever be allowed to embark on such a war?

Are the working-classes of modern democracy of such heroic and imaginative mould as to be willing to face the risk of atomic or other forms of counter-attack in support of an adventurously experimental war for peace against a Power which, though exasperatingly evasive up to date, is not actually threatening us with invasion, but, on the contrary, continues to declare that it sincerely wants peace, and to be allowed to go on living in its own way without interference?

Even, without the quite certain incitement of the Communist element in the ranks of Labour, which in some countries is very formidable, there would be such a national uprising of strikers throughout the industrial world as would paralyse the whole life of the nation and leave the government helpless. Even if Mr. Murry's proposition were ideally right, even if it showed true prophetic foresight for the averting of ultimate disaster, our machine-age democracy has not sufficient idealism or prophetic sense to rise to it: it would rise against it.

Time factor

Mr. Murry cannot suppose that this "War to end War" could be loosed by present governments over the heads of their "Free Societies" without their having some say in the matter, either by way of discussion or preparation of the public mind—without, therefore, giving Russia time to prepare for the peace-making shock which is being so benevolently devised for her. And even if she does not yet possess the secret of the atomic bomb, she may possess that of something equally devastating—bacteriological warfare, which she might be able to administer secretly by the hands of her devoted followers in the Abolitionist coun-

CIVIL DEFENCE

I HAVE just received a letter from a member who, in view of the Civil Defence Debate in the House of Commons, sent us £1 for Headquarters Fund. What do YOU think we should be doing in view of the assertions made during the debate? We have re-printed Dr. Kathleen Lonsdale's article from *Peace News*, "Atom ARP is Tragic Folly." We are re-printing a previous article by Laurence Housman, and we have a new leaflet, "Our Only Defence."

Will you help us to pay for these and other leaflets, so that they may be distributed widely? They are all meant to help people appreciate the truth of the situation in the hope that they may be persuaded to RENOUNCE WAR AND NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER.

MAUD ROWNTREE, Treasurer.

Contributions to HQ Fund since March 1947: £11 14s. 1d. Year's total to date £43 19s. 4d. Donations to the fund should be sent, marked "Headquarters Fund," to the Treasurer at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C.1

tries, so that before we knew what was happening, plague, pestilence and famine would rise up against us, and make our proposed War for the Kingdom of God on earth a practical impossibility.

But any fundamental disapproval of Mr. Murry's device for the abolition of war is not on practical, but on moral grounds.

In the first place, I believe he is asking to have done for him what he would not do himself for any reward in this world however great—the dropping of atom bombs, not on guilty rulers but on helpless populations, of enslaved humanity; and if he would not do it himself, it is immoral to ask it of others.

Further, there is something horrifically ironic in the thought that those who were responsible for that crowning infamy—the loosing of the atom bomb upon a nation which was already preparing to surrender—and who, to this day, have never expressed contrition for that deed of gratuitous abomination—that they should, with their guilty and unrepentant hands, bring that same instrument to the supposed service—for the establishment of His Kingdom upon Earth—of that God and Father of us all who maketh His sun to shine on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

I cannot believe that, by such an agency, either His Kingdom or any other good can come.

Letters to the Editor

This juror was exempted

LIKE Aaron Hyam, I also object to Jury Service. When informed that my name was to be placed on the list of persons liable for service, I wrote explaining my objections, but was informed my claim was disallowed. On being actually called to serve, I wrote to the Under-Sheriff, repeating my objections, and was granted exemption. This is the second time this has happened.

C. E. TRITTON.

This one would serve

I AM interested in Mr. Aaron Hyam's letter, as I have made a similar application with a similar result. May I, however, suggest to him that if he is called up for jury service, he can make his protest more effective by being prepared not to "incur the consequences," but to inflict them on the vindictive judicial system. If he can believe that in face of the mystery of life no human being is really "guilty" of anything and votes accordingly, he will (unfortunately, perhaps) not be troubled any further.

D. G. WILLIAMS.

299 Stroud Road,
Gloucester.

State law—second place

IN 1939, when I was at Kew, Surrey, I was summoned for jury service at the Old Bailey and, quoting from memory, made the following application:

"The Secretary, Old Bailey.

Sir,

I am writing for exemption from jury service on the ground that I am a Christian. I believe that under the New Covenant, the Law of Eye for Eye, and Tooth for Tooth has been abrogated by Jesus Christ, who requires forgiveness of

all enemies in all cases whatsoever. To sit in judgment, to condemn, to fine, to imprison, to exile or to kill one's enemies is obviously not to forgive but to exact retribution. As I cannot, therefore, conscientiously discharge the duties of a juror, I respectfully ask that I may be exempted from jury service.

Yours, etc."

I received in reply a brief note stating: "You are excused jury service." This shows that the authorities hereby acknowledge the law of Christ to be above the law of the State.

BERTRAM S. PRICE.

Conway House,
Church St., Newent, Glos.

More courageous to live

I STRONGLY disagree with Bruce Odspur's statement that "Jan Masaryk at least had the courage to commit physical suicide."

Whether intended as a symbol and warning or whether simply the last resort of despair, suicide is the mark of cowardice.

Momentary courage may be needed to kill one's self. To live and to work against oppression, decadence or futility needs continued courage of a far higher order.

KATHLEEN LONSDALE.

University College London,
Gower Street, W.C.1.

Endorsed by Bacon

I WAS very pleased to see that at the Mock Trial, Minnie Pallister was enthusiastically declared "Not Guilty" of the charge that she betrayed her pacifism by remaining a member of the Labour Party. Resignation is of doubtful worth, though the late Lord Ponsonby used it, I believe.

That most matter-of-fact of writers, Francis Bacon (*Advancement of*

Learning, Book II) counsels well on the matter:

Caution is given that upon displeasure retiring is of all courses the unfittest; for a man leaveth things at worst, and depriveth himself of means to make them better.

G. H. MURPHY.

29 Sunny Gardens-road,
London, N.W.4.

Words of Peace - No 240
LIBERTY & WAR

I hate that noisy drum; it is the sound
That tells of war, of bondage, and I
Blush

That Liberty had ever cause to rush
Into the warriors' arms; that right
e'er found

Asylum in the furious field. Not so
The holy crowns of genuine glory
grow.—SIR JOHN BOWRING.

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WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

CONTINUING our discussion on the value of a mild "corporal punishment" for the very young, a further interesting contribution comes from May Davis, of Cornwall:

"... Mine are four and two, and the lesson I have to learn (alas) over and over again is that it is not what you say, not whether you spank or don't spank, that counts, but your example. They learn by imitating and they copy attitudes and moods as faithfully as speech. "Yes, I have smacked to hurt, but I hope never to "fall" again, for always I have decided that it was a mistake. Your reader writes of "quick" results — yes—but speed, thank heavens, is not all. Example: I smacked the four-year-old and got good, quick results. One hour later I heard him dealing with the two-year-old:— "Lie down—LIE DOWN—NOW!" Pause—smack—howls."

It seems to me a very important point, that it is the whole attitude of adults that is copied, often so disastrously, by their children. It is not the isolated instance of a sharp word or an exasperated smack that impresses itself on the memory—can anyone remember the occasions of their spankings? It is rather the cumulative effect of years of damped ardour, stifled imagination and "eye to the main chance" caution, that makes us the poor, half-human creatures we become.

I doubt whether the howling two-year-old remembers, even by the time he has finished howling, just why he began; he probably feels it was good while it lasted, anyway. It is the things we don't howl about, because we take them for granted as the normal pattern of life (as lived by our "elders and betters") that come back and hit us when we realise the world need not be the ugly, cruel and stupid place it so often is. If only we were different!

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or PPU connexion with, the matter advertised.

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TENEMENT TOWN REVISITED

Late in 1941, a Pacifist Service Unit, shocked by conditions in the Honor Oak Housing Estate (S.E. London) resolved to settle there and start club-work among the young people. A record of its experiment up till the end of the War was published in Tenement Town (just re-issued at 1s. 6d. by Jason Press). In this article, a member of the group, DOROTHY MORTON, discusses some present needs and future possibilities of the Estate.



In the new flats . . . lifts.

BUILDING is proceeding apace on the bomb-damaged blocks of Tenement Town flats. The new flats are at once a tribute to our work and an indication of its severe limitations: a measure of our success and our failure, of accomplishment and of frustration. They indicate success in that they incorporate some of the amenities we have been urging for so long—accommodation for a doctor to live on the spot, lifts, a row of extra shops including a chemist's, a room for community activities to tide over the gap until we can have a community centre. But our failure lies in that there is rebuilding at all.

Wanted more space

We wanted more space—for children to play on, for gardens for men to dig and old people to sit in, for anything, as long as it was space in this overpopulated area. However, the housing shortage is the first consideration we are told, and the flats must go up again for now exactly where they were. Perhaps in the distant future—to the distant future also have been relegated the Church buildings, the completion of the children's playground, the health centre, and so many other things we should like to see.

It is worth mentioning perhaps that the row of shops will also include a pub. Whether this comes into the category of accomplishment or frustration is left to your personal inclination to decide.

The gardeners

Four hours ago I passed a group of children busy digging a little garden—quite illegally of course—in a patch of turf in front of one of the blocks. They had carefully removed every stone, their improvised tools had dug and raked the earth, and finally they were tenderly scattering over the ground the contents of a twopenny packet of Shirley poppy seeds. Not an hour later a terrific battle was raging near the spot. Somebody, perhaps purposely, perhaps inadvertently, had walked across the garden and left behind great ugly footprints.

That is one of the tragedies of the Honor Oak Estate. We are so close together that we must get in each other's way and there is no room at all for creativeness. This is true for each section of the people. There are no gardens for the men to potter about in—or at any rate, only fifty undersized allotments to be divided among eight hundred men. There is no space in these little flats for a house-proud wife to keep a room spick and span as she would like, for everywhere is littered with bicycles, drying

nappies, toys or other encumbrances. Perhaps most serious of all, there are no old sheds or woods or hills where children can get away from each other and from the ever-present adults.

People who are frustrated in their attempts to create inevitably tend to destroy. And that explains why, at this very moment, there are a dozen or so little boys beneath our window, aiming stones at a street lamp and doing their very best to shatter its glass.

The alternative to destructiveness is vicarious satisfaction, found usually at the cinema. But this means an adopting of Hollywood standards, a liking for external show; when we produce a play, our heroes and heroines expect us to conjure up a change of clothes for each scene, and even worse, a worship of dazzling success coupled with the idea that anything not for show is unimportant. Applying this code to their own affairs, our club members just cannot see the value of a rehearsal for a play. The only thing that matters is the final performance when there are people to watch; a rehearsal is a meaningless affair.

Something creative

Despite this discouraging attitude, we have chosen drama as something creative that our club members can tackle. With their native Cockney wit and their freedom from self-consciousness, they are potentially excellent actors. At its very lowest, drama is sheer good fun. At its highest it is a religious experience—something that lifts people out of themselves to a higher plane. So we encourage our children to act as much as possible.

We still hope that one day our dreams of an outdoor stage will materialise. These blocks of flats, built it seems so that neighbours can look across the yard and pry into each other's business, are also amphitheatres, not unlike enlarged Elizabethan inns, and we are hoping and planning to make them a new means of bringing living drama to the people of Tenement Town.

DOROTHY MORTON.

Liberalism is New Weapon in "Battle of Berlin"

From HENRY HOLM
Berlin correspondent, Worldover Press.

FIFTEEN women representing three women's organisations that had been licensed only in the British and US sectors of Berlin, recently got an unexpected invitation to dinner from General Kotikov, the Russian Commander of Berlin. He told them he would do everything he could to help them—and now they have their licenses for all of Berlin. The incident is one of a number recently that point to one aspect of the Second "Battle of Berlin": the contest between Russia and the three Western Powers to see who can get the most support from the German population.

Present Russian strategy, it seems, is to show as much liberalism as possible. Not long ago a non-party organisation, the Cultural League for Democratic Renewal of Germany, was prohibited in the British and US sectors of Berlin, on the grounds that the League was under Communist influence. The authorisation of the three women's organisations already mentioned seems to have been a counter-move of liberalism on the part of the Russians. It paid a dividend, for when one of the three groups, the Women's League of 1945, held a meeting to discuss war resistance immediately afterwards in the British sector, Kotikov was heartily cheered.

GERMANS LOOK ON

Most Germans are not too concerned, naturally, as to how genuine Eastern or Western liberalism is, as long as they benefit from the "battle." But in certain areas of public life, the West would do well to realise, the Russians have been more liberal. In the whole Eastern Zone the school reform now operating provides for one foreign language to be taught in every school, even in the country.

According to Professor Henry Dieters, Head of the Institute for Theoretical Pedagogics at the University of Berlin, English is being taught in about one-third of all German schools in the Russian Zone. Whereas no Russian is taught anywhere in the Western Zones. The new school reform as a whole, in the Russian Zone, says Professor Dieters, is about what the German school reformers dreamed of and planned under the Weimar Republic, but could not achieve.

In the present "Battle of Berlin," the West, however, has one immense advantage. No other country can hope to send as many food parcels as the United States is now doing.

RICHARD WARD

will speak on

ART IN RELATION TO PEACE

at

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April 8, 7.30

Chair: SYBIL MORRISON.

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LITERATURE, &c.

"ATOM ARP is Tragic Folly." Dr. Kathleen Lonsdale's PN article re-printed as a give-away leaflet. The answer to Sir John Anderson! 1s. 6d. 100, 15s. 1,000, post free, from Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., London, N.4.

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PERSONAL

MIGRATION. GREETINGS to unanswered correspondent and other friends from Eleanor and Leonard Bird, now at 2 Watt St., Hull.

SCOTS ACCEPTING conclusions of Wellock's "The Third Way," invited communicate, H. Gardiner, Peace Centre, 44 Frederick St., Edinburgh, view common policy.

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When corresponding with PN about an advertisement, quote its first words, classification, and date.

MEETINGS, &c.

GLOUCESTER GROUP members and friends, please specially note. April 5, 7 p.m., Friends Meeting House, Greyfriars, Roger Peate on "Pacifism and the future of the PPU." (His first visit).

JOHN PATON, MP, on "Japan and the Far East," Kingsway Hall, W.C.2. Wed., April 7, at 1.15 p.m. National Peace Council, 144 Southampton Row, W.C.1.

ACCOMMODATION

WEEK'S LODGING in London requd. April 24 to May 1, for single couple. No meals. Box 875.

BEACONWOOD HOTEL. Minehead, Som. Tel. 32. Beautiful scenic B. & C. gas fires and rings. Vegetarian meals only. 4½—5 gns. R. Whitby.

A UNO solution for Greece

COMMENTARY CONTINUED

with the Italian elections, rippled even Ministerial benches with mirth.

It would have been short-sighted even if the elections promised to be decisive. As things are — it is not many months since the Communist leader, Togliatti, was reported in Unita as saying, "If we emerge victorious from the forthcoming elections, our future activities will be pacific; if not, we shall pass over to revolutionary action." Trieste or no Trieste, should Italy become a second Greece, she will be effectively lost to the West.

New low level

THAT Greece is a lost cause should be obvious to everyone by now. The latest tactic of the Communists their deportation of children to Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, with the intention apparently, of rearing them in strict accordance with the principles of Marx-Engels-Lenin-and-Stalin — while it recalls the practice of the Turks, marks a new low level in guerilla morality.

Rather than let this go on as long as the world-duel lasts, would it not be better for UNO to cordon-off Greece, with a force drawn from neutral countries, and appeal to the

Americans to withdraw? Russia might support such a proposal, if only because, left to themselves, the Greeks would almost certainly go Communist; it is at least on the cards that America would support it as well, if only in order to be able to deploy her troops more effectively elsewhere.

There is evidence that many Americans would be only too glad to relinquish their support of a Government which, by reports appearing in their own press, is as tyrannous as any in Eastern Europe — could they do so without losing face. If every provision were made for the evacuation of refugees, this might offer the most hopeful way out of the present deplorable situation.

Greece, it will be said, would only spurt out of the frying-pan into the fire, by exchanging a near-Fascist for a Communist dictatorship. But it is impossible to believe that the Greeks as a whole would not be grateful even for that, if it meant the end of the civil war. It is not they who set less store by peace than by a régime favourable to one or other of the Great Powers.

Perennial

THE problem of China is the problem of Greece writ large. The perennial civil war there entered a new phase last week, with the successful Communist offensive in Chahar. But neither the Communists nor the Kuomintang stands any chance of an outright victory, since neither America nor Russia will sit back and see her own partisans mopped up. If military aid is sent to Chiang Kai-Shek, the only effect will be to extend the country's disruption and misery.

The one hope here seems to lie in partition. If UNO proposed that now, surely it would be impossible for either Government to face a war-weary people with refusal? The Generalissimo himself might be glad to have an armistice thrust upon him, since he is said to be losing prestige as a result of his military failures.

Southern China, reconstructed with American help, would be large and powerful enough to constitute a second "buffer state," flanking the Soviet Union in the East. Whether such buffer states could really do anything to avert a collision between the Great Powers, no-one can say for certain; but this much at least is obvious — that the next best thing to putting on the brake is to take your foot off the accelerator.

A neutral and independent Southern China, a neutral and independent Western Europe: on such broken reeds are we reduced to relying for hope of peace in the short run, two years after the Second World War. As I heard a pacifist speaker say in Hyde Park one day: "We're not here to say 'we told you so' — but we did."

SAFFRON WALDEN REJECTS A GESTURE

THE Saffron Walden branch of the British Legion have secured the rejection of a gift by a German prisoner which the Mayor was convinced "would help in the restoration of a good relationship between nations."

From the trunk of an elm tree 23-year-old PoW Karl Weschke, carved a bust of an airman while he was at Radwinter Camp near Saffron Walden, and sent it to the Mayor as "a tribute to the fallen of all nations." Weschke, a former fighter pilot in the German Air Force, asked the Mayor to have the carving mounted on a block of rough granite and placed among the graves in the borough cemetery of 77 British, Canadian, Polish and German airmen shot down in the Battle of Britain.

After the carving had been inspected by several Councillors it appeared as an item on the agenda of the February meeting of the Town Council. In the meantime Karl Weschke left the locality to take a course at the Wilton Park Training Centre. "He is quite unaware" said the East Anglian Daily Times, "of the controversy he has started in Saffron Walden."

The Town Council, however, deferred their decision and referred the matter to the local branch of the British Legion. When the Legion said that they were strongly against the proposal the Council decided to reject the carving.

UNESCO'S Struggle Against Illiteracy

To start re-education in war-devastated countries requires 200 million pencils.

In a school in Yugoslavia a 23-year-old teacher has a class of 175 boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 12.

Three-quarters of the schools in Czechoslovakia were destroyed during the war.

THESE were some of the little-known facts presented at the second of the National Peace Council's lunch hour meetings, addressed by D. R. Hardman, M.P., on March 24. These meetings are devoted to contemporary international problems, and one of these, as Mr. Ritchie Calder, the Chairman, explained, was how to make people understand UNESCO — The United Nations Educational, Social, and Cultural Organisation.

Speaking on "The Role of UNESCO," Mr. Hardman emphasised that this organisation had no wish to form a common culture; it's wish rather, was the association of all peoples, with their different cultures, in a united world. A united world needed the three major foundations of security, prosperity and community, which had so far been opposed by war, poverty and isolation. UNESCO concerned itself primarily with community.

First objective

Its first objective was to reduce illiteracy in the world, and then work through the medium of newspapers, films and radio. School children, teachers, scientists, artists, students, should be interchangeable, and some steps had already been taken to make this possible. Britain had already established an interchange bureau.

UNESCO, however, did not plan a merely academic Utopia. Intelligent thought had to be allied with action to become a positive factor in the realm of life. This action must be started by the restoration of war devastated areas, the rebuilding of schools and the training of teachers.

"The devastation of World War II has not been brought home to the citizens of this country," said Mr. Hardman. "They do not know that three-quarters of the schools in Czechoslovakia were destroyed. They are unaware of the destruction of the libraries in Belgium; of the 6,000 schools and the two million books destroyed in this country, to say nothing of the teachers who perished."

It could not be too heavily stressed that UNESCO was not an Anglo-Saxon or European organisation but one representing the cultures of the whole world. Its desire was to send abroad the best films of international interest, to translate the world's classics, to further international exhibitions. It did not set out to be a world university, but an inter-governmental organisation. It did not try to cut out existing organisations, but aimed rather to bring them together. It was one answer to the atom bomb, one way in the long run to bring community to the world.

"PPU OPPOSE POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION"

THE following resolution was passed on Sunday, March 21, 1948, by the National Council of the PPU:

"This National Council of the Peace Pledge Union strongly objects to the Government's decision to introduce political discrimination into the Civil Service. It regards this as a denial of the elementary rights of the individual, to be particularly deplored in view of the Government's acceptance under the recent Brussels agreement of the obligation to fortify and preserve principles of democracy, personal freedom and political liberty..."

A German Poll on Politics

The U.S. Military Government in Germany recently conducted an inquiry into the German people's attitude toward politics. Seventy per cent. of those who were asked to express their opinion declared that they would refuse to take any public post offered to them; a third of them mentioned as a reason lack of time, youth or inability; 25 per cent. instanced a bad experience of politics in the past.

ATOMIC WEEK AT BRISTOL

DURING the Atomic Week at Bristol, the Society of Friends the FoR and the PPU pulled together as one body to arouse public conscience.

Kathleen Lonsdale, D.Sc., held a packed meeting at the Museum Lecture Theatre on the Saturday at the start of the campaign. She gave only clues to indicate what atomic energy might achieve as fuel, power and in medical research, but she maintained that the citizen could hold himself blameless if scientific made atomic bombs at the behest of a democratically-elected government. Vera Brittain's audience, on the Sunday closing the week, filled the Little Theatre—460 approximately. There was no doubt that her thoughtful provoking insistence on the existence of the human spirit in Russia, as it had been all the while in Germany, met sympathetic response. Science had so facilitated transport and communication that surely it was not expecting too much to ask for some means of speaking man to man with the Russian people.

Out of this sprang the resolution of a PPU Group asking the Government and the BBC to invite Russian speakers, in the spirit of speaking peace unto the nations, to use the British microphone fifteen minutes weekly.

M.B.

SWEDES BEAT YOUTH CAMP CURRENCY PROBLEM

Ungdomens Fredsförbund, the Youth Section of Sweden's largest pacifist society, is organising three international youth camps near Stockholm this summer, beginning on June 1, July 1 and Aug. 1, respectively. The camps will be open to everyone between 15 and 25.

In order to overcome the currency problem, it has been arranged that participants will work for five days a week in forestry or agriculture, being paid at least 8 Swedish kroner* a day. Total expenses at the camp which is on the shores of Lake Mälaren, will be about 3 kroner a day. Week-end excursions in Stockholm and near towns are planned, and in the evenings there will be opportunities to meet members of Swedish youth organisations. The organiser is Bror Edberg, Postbag 81, Stockholm, 1.

* 1 Kr. equals 1s. 4d. approximately.

TEN YEARS AGO

From Peace News, April 2, 1938

Side by side with attempts to get the public to co-operate in schemes for air raid precautions, there is going on a campaign to pretend that national unity (for war) is now an accomplished fact.

If success crowns the attempt to show that public opinion is really united behind the Government's foreign policy, it will be followed by a move to introduce conscription under the guise of national service.

An English member of the PPU on her return from Germany said: "I saw copies of Peace News were read with interest and surprise. I left a good deal of literature behind, and came away feeling that one day we shall be selling Peace News in Germany too!"

INFERIORITY COMPLEX

is a "disturbance centre" in subconsciousness generating negative impulses causing self-consciousness, lack of confidence, nervousness, worry, weak will, unsociability, lack of enterprise, stammering, blushing, forgetfulness, "nerves," sleeplessness, etc. To fight these forces directly is in vain. ERADICATE THEM FOR EVER by restructuring within yourself a powerful, positive subconscious mind, as revealed in remarkable FREE Book, which has transformed the lives of thousands. Write to-day. All correspondence is confidential.

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